

1  
48 merges the images 11a-11d to form a panoramic image of the entire view of the scene, which it conveys to the output interface 46 of the network server 42. --

2  
[ Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- For example, as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, the positioning module 50 uses the two image positioner 60 to determine how much a first image 80a needs to be moved relative to a second image 80b so that a certain object depicted in both of the images 80a, 80b has its depiction in the second image 80b on top of its depiction in the first image 80a. In FIG. 4A, the image 80b must be moved 68 pixels to the right and 2 pixels upwards so that a branch 82 which is depicted in both image 80a, 80b has its depiction in the second image 80b on top of its depiction in the first image 80a. This ensures that the two images 80a, 80b are positioned so that the images 80a, 80b continue into each other as seamlessly as possible without altering the pixels of the images.--

3  
[ Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The dividing-line determiner 54 (FIG. 1) determines (212) an outline 85 (FIG. 4F) of a composite image formed by aligning the current image 80b and the reference image 80a (as previously described with reference to FIG. 4A). The dividing-line determiner 54 also determines a pair of points 87a, 87b where the outlines of the aligned images intersect, thereby defining (214) a line 89 that joins the points 87a, 87b and divides (216) the panoramic outline 85 into two sections 81, 83 (216). If the outlines of the aligned images intersect at more than two points, the dividing-line determiner 54 selects the two intersection points that are furthest apart from each other to define the dividing line 89. The dividing-line determiner 54 then determines (218) which one of the two sections 81, 83 has less of the current image 80b that is not overlapped by the reference image 80a and sets (220) that section 84 of the current image 80b to be invisible. In the example of FIG. 4F, the section 83 has none of the current image that is not overlapped by the first image 80a. Consequently, the portions of the image profile 85 contained within the section 84 are set invisible, leaving the hashed section 81 of the image 80b visible.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

80f  
-- The stitching software 48 checks (222) whether there are any more images between the reference image 80a and the current image 80b. If there are more images, the stitching software 48 sets (224) the reference image to be the next image after the current reference image and repeats the process of setting a section of the current image 80b invisible (208-220) as described above. Otherwise, if there are no more images, the blending mask determiner 56 (FIG. 1) determines (226) the pixels within the current image that will mask out pixels of earlier images. Only visible pixels of the current image 80b mask out pixels of earlier images 80a. Consequently, the mask value of pixels contained within the region 81 is set to "1", while the mask property of pixels contained within the region 84 is set to "0". --

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

80g  
-- If there are no more images after the current image, the image blender 58 overlaps (230) the images 80a-80f based on the masking value to create the panoramic image 94 (FIG. 4E). The section 81 of the second image 80b with a mask value of 1 is first composited on the first image, thereby obstructing the part of the first image that is to the right of the dividing line 89. The portions of the third image 80c with a mask value of 90 are then composited on the composite image from the first 80a and second 80b image to create another image, and so on, until the composite image 94 is created. Thus, image stitching software merges images 80a-80f depicting sections of a scene to create a panoramic image of the whole scene. --

In the claims:

Amend claim 1, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27 as follows:

80h  
1. (Amended) A method of merging images of segments of a view, comprising:  
receiving a first image representing a first segment of the view and a second image  
representing a second segment of the view, the images being received from a remote location  
over a network;